

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Abstract on page 23 of the specification as follows:

A system and method have been provided for securely provisioning configuration data in a network-connected integrated circuit device. The method comprises: receiving configuration data addressed to device registers; loading the configuration data in configuration registers; and, locking to prevent the loading of subsequently received configuration data. Locking to prevent the loading of subsequently received configuration data includes the substeps of: establishing at least one locking register having a first address; loading a first lock set in the locking register; and, in response to loading the first lock set in the locking register, preventing the loading of received data in the configuration registers. ~~In some aspects of the method, locking to prevent subsequent loading of configuration data includes: establishing a first locking register having a first address and a second locking register having a second address; loading a first lock set in the first locking register and a second lock set in the second locking register; and, in response to loading the first lock set in the first locking register and the second lock set in the second locking register, preventing the loading of received data in the configuration registers. The first address and second address are often non-contiguous for additional security. The loading of the received data in configuration registers includes loading a non-lock set, not equal to the first lock set, in the locking register. Then, in response to loading the non-lock set in the locking register, loading received data in the configuration registers.~~